

On paper the average motion picture comedy looks more like a drama than anything else. They are big stories with the thrill and the sensational situation predominant. The actors make them funny by the "business"; the silly, ridiculous things they do. It takes deep thought to figure out how to do the ordinary things of life in a way that will make people laugh. Often when we are rehearsing a scene one may notice the entire company sitting with their heads in their hands, for all the world as though they were mourning the loss of a dear friend. They are merely trying to think of some silly little stunt which will make an audience laugh.

Making a film play funny is largely a matter of co-operation on the part of the whole company. Everybody's ideas are always welcome, for frequently the director gets a "hunch" out of them. Although every comedy director has his description of the various scenes at hand, he seldom refers to it. The comedy is built up as we go along. The director has the story in his mind and it is his endeavor to make the situations comical.

A situation to be funny must have its thrill. Frequently these thrills are much more intense than any of the thrills of real life. We frequently take desperate chances and while we try to eliminate all the danger, it is not unusual for some one to be injured while making a film that will amuse people. Thus you see there is a tragic side to the business of being funny. In some of our films we run automobiles off cliffs and wharves, and a man rides a motorcycle through a brick wall. The famous Keystone "cops" frequently scale the roofs and outside walls of Los Angeles skyscrapers where the slip of a foot would pitch them to their death—all to make the public laugh.

Yes, the business of being funny is indeed serious at times. In "Tilly's Nightmare" an automobile loaded

with actors was driven off the end of a pier into the ocean. Had there been any mishap several persons might have been drowned.

(To Be Continued.)

## WANTS TO FLY!—DAUGHTER OF PEARY STUDYING AVIATION



MISS MARIE PEARY

Inspired by the interest of her father, Admiral Robert Peary, in aviation, Miss Peary is studying flying and will take a course in arial navigation when she finishes preliminary work.

Kitchener received a salary of \$30,000.